

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A vulcanized rubber compound comprising precipitated silica having the following physico-chemical properties:

BET surface area:	35 to 350 m ² /g;
BET/CTAB surface area ratio	0.8 to 1.1;
pore volume, PV	1.6 to 3.4 ml/g;
<u>Sears value (V₂) silanol group density, ml of NaOH</u> <u>consumed in raising pH to 9</u>	6 to 20 ml;
averaged aggregate size	250 to 1500 nm;
CTAB surface area	30 to 350 m ² /g;
DBP volume	150 to 300 ml/100 g;
V ₂ /V ₁ by Hg porosimetry	0.19 to 0.46; and
DBP/CTAB	1.2 to 3.5.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The vulcanized rubber compound of claim ~~12~~ 7, wherein the particle fineness of said precipitated silica is less than or equal to 11 μ m.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The vulcanized rubber compound of claim ~~14~~ 9, wherein the particle fineness of said precipitated silica is less than or equal to 10 μ m.